

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appl. No. 09/519,847

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so that said silica is deposited in said heated area regardless of the position of said heating means, wherein said heating means is a plasma torch.

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3. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said plasma torch has a main axis in a plane, said injector means has a main axis in a plane, wherein a fixed angle is defined by the intersection of said plane of said plasma torch and said plane of said injector means, and said injector means and said plasma torch move relative to each other, within their respective planes, in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis of said preform.

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